AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) Polymer-based stopper, **comprising** a composition or preblend **comprising** volatile **corrosion** inhibitors which **further** comprises at least one structuring agent consisting of a solid or pasty substance whose melting point is from 40 to 110°C, preferably from 50 to 90°C and which is selected from the group consisting of linear and slightly branched hydrocarbons **such as** mineral waxes, paraffin, microcrystalline, petrolatum, polyethylene, polyolefins.

2. (Previously presented) Stopper according to claim 1, incorporating a composition or preblend comprising from 1 to 90%, preferably from 20 to 60% by weight of at least one volatile inhibitor and from 10 to 99%, preferably from 40 to 80%, of at least one structuring agent consisting of a solid or pasty substance whose melting point is from 40 to 110°C, preferably from 50 to 90°C.

3. (Previously presented) Stopper according to claim 1, incorporating a composition or preblend whose solid or pasty structuring agent is selected from the group consisting of solid or pasty, aliphatic and/or resinous compounds with a melting point of between 40 and 110°C, preferably between 50 and 90°C.

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (Currently amended) Stopper according to claim 1, incorporating a composition or preblend whose structuring agent is selected from the group of those identified in Table A below, some of which are waxes of mineral or synthetic origin:

TABLE A

Origin of structuring agent	Majority chemical nature of the structuring agent	Name of the structuring agent	Melting point (°C)	Density at 25°C ASTM D 1298	Penetration index at 25°C ASTM D1321
~~Natural~~	~~Ester (myricyl cirotate)~~	~~Carnauba~~	~~83 - 86~~	~~0.995~~	———
	~~Ester (myricyl palmitate)~~	~~Beeswax~~	~~62 - 65~~	~~0.955~~	———
Mineral	Paraffinic hydrocarbons (mixture)	Paraffin	50-60	0.900	15
	Isoparaffinic and naphthenic hydrocarbons	Micro-crystalline wax	69	0.930	29
	Aliphatic	Petrolatum	70-72	0.910/	43-45

	hydrocarbons (mixture)			20°C	
Synthetic	Polyethylene	Polyethylene wax	88	0.930	6.5
	~~Oxidised isoparaffinie hydrocarbons~~	~~Oxidised microcrystalline wax~~	85	--	13
	~~Phosphoric ester of C16/C18fatty alcohols~~	~~_____~~	~~83 - 89~~	~~0.998~~	--
	~~Polyethylene glycol~~	~~Polyethylene blycol 4000~~	~~57 - 59~~	~~1.112/ 99°C~~	--

8. (Currently amended) Stopper according to claim 1, ~~incorporating~~ comprising a composition or preblend comprising at least one volatile corrosion inhibitor selected from the group consisting of:

- nitrogenous derivatives and in particular firstly, aliphatic, aromatic, acyclic or cyclic amines including dicyclohexylamine, cyclohexylamine, morpholine, diisopropylamine and benzylamine, their organic salts

including the benzoates, carbamates, laurates, caprylates and succinates, or their inorganic salts including the nitrites, nitrates, carbonates, phosphates and phosphites, and, secondly, heterocycles including imidazole and its derivatives, triazoles and their derivatives, as well as hexamethylenetetramine,

- nitrogenous oxido derivatives including the alkali metal or alkaline-earth metal salts of nitrous acid, and

- benzoic derivatives of these metals such as sodium benzoate.

9. (Currently amended) Stopper according to claim 1 ~~consisting of~~ comprising at least one polymer representing at least 50% of its weight and which can be selected from the group consisting of:

- polyolefins including polyethylenes, polypropylene, polybutene and their copolymers with one or more unsaturated monomers including vinyl acetate, acrylic acid and its esters with carbon-based short chain alcohols,
- polyvinyl chloride and its copolymers, acrylic copolymers and their derivatives, and
- polyamides, polystyrenes, polycarbonates, polyesters, polyurethanes, rubbers including natural rubber, styrene-butadiene and polychloroprene.

10. (Currently amended) Stopper according to claim 1 ~~wherein it is incorporated~~ formed by any suitable process including moulding, injection-moulding, extrusion or thermoforming.

11. (Currently amended) Process for protecting the internal parts of hollow metal components against corrosion, consisting ~~in~~ of obstructing the one or more openings of hollow metal components by introducing in the openings one or more of the stoppers according to claim 1.